

### Remarks

Applicants acknowledge and express their appreciation for the indication that claims 1-11 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ciric for taking the time to specifically identify a number of objections under 35 USC § 112. Applicants' attorney has reviewed the claims and made other amendments, where appropriate, in an effort to optimize clarity. This amendment after final makes most of the changes suggested in the marked claims which accompanied the Office Action, in an effort to overcome these various objections and to advance this case toward an allowance without further delay.

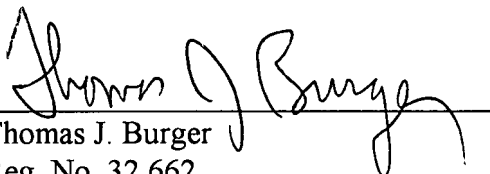
More specifically, for the most part applicants have amended claims 1-11 in the manner suggested by Examiner Ciric. Applicants have also added claim 12, which represents a variation of the proposed claim that was previously forwarded to Examiner Ciric. That is, added claim 12 is based on the previously proposed new claim, but also includes most of the changes proposed by Examiner Ciric relative to pending claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that added claim 12 is generally commensurate in scope with the prior independent claims of this application, and directed generally to the same invention. Therefore, it should not necessitate any additional searching.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to the claims clarify the subject matter regarded as patentable, so that they perhaps better conform with § 112. Nevertheless, applicants also respectfully submit that these claims were already sufficiently definite under § 112, and that these amendments do not substantively change the scope of the invention as claimed.

Based on the amendments to the abstract, the specification, the claims and the remarks set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that each of pending claims 1-11 and added claim 12 is in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed without further delay. Furthermore, applicant's undersigned attorney respectfully requests that he be contacted by telephone, at (513) 241-2324, if there are any questions at all about this response, or any disagreements with the position set forth herein, in the hope of answering any such questions or resolving any such differences in an expedited manner.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By:   
Thomas J. Burger  
Reg. No. 32,662

2700 Carew Tower  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
(513) 241-2324